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RESTRICTED

7 October 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF, REQUIREMENTS BRANCH

SUBJECT: Unexploited German Language Microfilm Material Held by OTS.

1. Pursuant to verbal request contact was made with Mr. Reiss of the Office of Technical Service to ascertain nature of subject material.

2. The following relevant information was obtained:

a. Of 5,000 reels of German industrial and technical documents microfilmed by Commerce Department employees working in conjunction with FIAT, 2,500 have been completely abstracted. It is estimated that the remaining 2,500 reels contain approximately 250,000 documents.

b. This material is at present unclassified and it is estimated that at least 90% is in German and the remaining portion in Russian.

c. OTS believes that it would require 30 linguists six months to abstract this material properly.

d. At the present time OTS does not have linguist personnel to undertake this abstracting and does not contemplate exploiting it in the near future.

e. OTS would like to see this material placed in the hands of CIA or the Department of the Army for proper exploitation.

f. If CIA or the Army does not wish to handle this material the British have offered to process the entire lot for OTS.

g. There are two alternative plans to the above, namely, 1) making all the reels available to industry at \$6.00 per reel; 2) working in conjunction with a private organization financed by industry for the exploitation of this material.

3. It is believed that the OTS estimate on number of personnel required is optimistic, and that this processing would require 30 linguists for 1-1½ years.

Acting Chief, Foreign Documents Branch

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